

WHISKEY BONDING STORES (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 6 April 1875;—for,

COPY "of the CORRESPONDENCE which passed between the late Lord Mayor of Dublin (Mr. Brooks) and the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject of the Mixing of WHISKEY in HER MAJESTY'S BONDING STORES in Ireland."

Treasury Chambers,
13 April 1875.

W. H. SMITH.

— No. 1. —

Mr. Brooks, M.P., to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Dear Sir,

House of Commons, 4 August 1874.

In pursuance of the conversation had with you this day, I beg again to trouble you with the subject of blending whiskies in Irish Government warehouses, and to remind you of the statement you kindly made in the House of Commons, on the 26th June last, to the effect that orders had been sent that would to a great extent meet the difficulty.

You were good enough to say to-day that you would cause inquiries to be made, and would communicate the result to me at the Mansion House, Dublin.

The Right Hon.
Sir Stafford Northcote, Chancellor
of the Exchequer,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) Maurice Brooks.

— No. 2. —

The Chancellor of the Exchequer to Mr. Brooks, M.P.

11, Downing-street, Whitehall,
8 August 1874.

Sir,

I AM directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to inform you, in reply to your letter of the 4th, that he finds that orders have been issued by the Custom House on the subject of the blending of whiskies in Irish Government warehouses for marking all casks containing mixed spirits in a manner clearly to indicate the various processes through which they have passed, and that the Customs officers have received strict injunctions to use every means in their power to prevent such spirits going into consumption under a false character.

Sir Stafford is of opinion that in issuing such orders the Government have done all that is possible to meet the grievance as to which complaint has been made. You are no doubt aware that the law as it at present stands permits spirits imported from England or Scotland into Ireland to be mixed with Irish whiskey in bonded warehouses, under the supervision of the officers of Customs, but that foreign spirits cannot be mixed with British spirits for consumption in the United Kingdom. To alter this state of things, by forbidding altogether the mixture of spirits in bonded warehouses, would obviously entail a serious restriction on trade which, as at present advised, Sir Stafford could not sanction.

Sir Stafford has found upon inquiry that the orders referred to as having
366. A been